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Tourism conference stimulates action

It took only a few words from key note speaker, Michael W. Fox, to energize delegates at the Travel North 98 conference in Slave Lake. "Ecotourism and aboriginal tourism are the fastest growing sectors in the tourism industry today. The good news is that northern Alberta has these in spades," he said.

Members of Alberta's northern tourism industry met to come up with new ways to develop northern Alberta's tourism industry. The event was hosted by NADC, with sponsors Alberta Economic Development, Alberta North TDR, Economic Development Edmonton, and West Edmonton Mall.

Fox urged his audience to "look for partners. That's the key to this conference and to what you're trying to do up here." His audience was eager to roll up their sleeves and do just that. "Tourism priorities have a better chance of being addressed now that the industry has shown itself ready to unite and work together for the same goals," NADC's Brad Bishop observed.

Key priorities identified for the north include:

- coordinating a strategic approach to tourism development
- expanding packaging and marketing of tourism product
- investing in tourism infrastructure
- improving quality of customer service
- increasing awareness of tourism benefits and support for the industry.

As a result of the conference NADC has made submissions to various government representatives, and will be coordinating a working group of various agencies to improve services to the northern industry.

For more information or a copy of the conference report, please contact Brad Bishop at 624-6535.

BSW Degree Program in the North!

The Northern BSW Council of Stakeholders is pleased that the University of Calgary has received ACCESS funding for its BSW Virtual Learning Circles proposal.

"This is exciting for the north," says NADC's Audrey DeWit. "Students will be able to complete their Bachelor of Social Work degree in the north and the content will be relevant to northern community needs." The distance-based program will be available in September. For more information contact Audrey DeWit at 624-6342.



Spotlight: Mackenzie Region

Mackenzie area workshop & reverse tradeshow May 26/99



NADC is working with north Peace industry and communities to organize this opportunity to display the types of products and services they need. This will provide local contractors with ideas and contacts in order to meet these needs.

The tradeshow, planned for High Level, will coincide with a workshop focusing on aboriginal contracting and employment issues.

The reverse tradeshow concept resulted from discussions at the NADC Leaders Roundtable in High Level in November. For more information contact Trev Ruberry at 624-6432.

High Level leaders roundtable

Presenters at November's regional leaders' roundtable in High Level shed light on the region's development challenges, including:

- The need for competitive transportation. Participants supported extending Highway 58, and raised concerns with the rail system and high airfares.
- The difficulties related to funding municipal infrastructure and services in the rapidly developing Mackenzie region.
- Labour force concerns related to training, recruitment and retention of employees.
- Capturing opportunities related to wood products, gas liquids, and local services.

Next leaders' roundtable: St. Paul, March 5.
Call Lynn Kreke at 624-6275 to find out more.

Advancing

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE NORTHERN ECONOMY**

NADC Response to Estey Report

The NADC has submitted its response to the recommendations of the Estey report. Council developed its response in consultation with producers from across the Peace region.

The NADC supports the recommendations made by Justice Estey, but only if they are implemented as a whole. NADC has serious concerns if only a portion of the recommendations are adopted.

In addition, NADC emphasizes that a program must be launched immediately to find solutions to the operation of the Port of Prince Rupert, and that the right of the farmer to order and load producer cars must be retained.

For more information please contact Brian Pountney at 624-6277.

You may be contacted!

NADC is planning a major conference on northern development for the fall. Preliminary research is being carried out by Serecon Management and the Advisory Group. You may be contacted for your ideas and priorities related to northern development. We would appreciate any feedback you can provide about the challenges you see in the future development of the north.

If you have any questions please contact Trev Ruberry at 624-6432.

New stats from your Northern Network!

Now on our Web site at
www.gov.ab.ca/nadc/:

* northern oil and gas reserve data
(AEUB 1997 data)

* volume of traffic (vehicle counts)
on northern highways (Alberta
Transportation and Utilities data)

* major northern industrial projects
(based on quarterly updates from
Alberta Economic Development)

Plus much more - please visit our
site or contact us for your northern
data needs. For more information
contact Sam Warrior at 624-6433.

Project updates...

Alberta - Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding - NADC Chair Mike Cardinal has been appointed the Alberta co-chair of this MOU, signed last fall. It is expected to focus on shared priorities such as transportation and tourism. Implementation will begin once the NWT co-chair is appointed. For more information contact Brian Pountney at 624-6277.

Northern Student Supplement - 344 northern students accessed this supplement to the new Alberta Opportunities Bursary in its first year. For more information contact Audrey DeWit at 624-6342.

Northern Student Survey - over 1200 students have been surveyed to determine the factors affecting their interest in post-secondary training. The final report is expected by the end of March. This is a joint project of the Northern Labour Market Clearinghouse and Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development. Contact Patrick Mackenzie at 624-6536 to find out more.

How to get in touch:

Northern Alberta Development Council
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
Bag 900-14
Peace River AB T8S 1T4
Phone 780-624-6274 (toll free dial 310-0000)
Fax 780-624-6184
E-mail council@nadc.gov.ab.ca
Web site www.gov.ab.ca/nadc/

Council members 1998-99

Mike Cardinal, MLA Athabasca-Wabasca, Chair
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Don Erno, Sexsmith
Gerald McIvor, Whitecourt
Doug Sklar, Athabasca
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Northern Developments

Constitutions

Challenge North, Planning for Progress

March 29 – 31, 2000

Grande Prairie, Alberta

From June 1999 to March 2000

A. S. - The first of 10 years and

March 29-31, 2000

regional and local, has concluded

definitely, industry, education and government leaders in the
knowledge of your future. Find out how the north's best government and what is
potential in the tomorrow.

Encouraged in a wide range of
of agreements, particularly in
planning and cultural, infrastructure
and agriculture. Council members
and staff look forward to
with AI in her new position.

"This conference attempts to pull all leaders from across the province
and virtually major cities," says NADC president, the first time
speaking of the upcoming Challenge North. "We have a responsibility
to ensure that we have the best government and what is
potential in the tomorrow."

Bidding Farewell

NADC sends its appreciation to
three members soon leaving the
council. Don Sims and Floyd
Thompson are retiring after four
years participation on the board,
and Alvin Collins has resigned.

Don made significant contributions
in identifying regulatory issues,
especially value added

opportunities. Floyd played a key

role as a member of the Regulatory

Solutions Committee. Board

representatives will be announced

this spring.

"We are providing significant
resources to the north. We have the
best government and what is
potential in the tomorrow. We have the
best government and what is
potential in the tomorrow. We have the
best government and what is
potential in the tomorrow."

At the conference, keynote speaker Stuart C. "Stu" Cunningham, vice
president and managing director, will discuss the importance of research and social
science in the north. He is the president of the University of Alberta, director of the Faculty
of Business, and the University of Alberta, director of the Faculty of Business.

Don Sims, in food for thought on the importance of the north's best government
and what is potential in the tomorrow. Don Sims, in food for thought on the importance of the north's best government
and what is potential in the tomorrow. Don Sims, in food for thought on the importance of the north's best government
and what is potential in the tomorrow.

PHOTO: NADC photo of the first time

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Register now!

For more information, call (780) 444-1744 or visit

www.northerndevelopments.com or register on the Web.

<https://archive.org/details/northerndevelopm1999nort>

